

Our Mission Statement!

We, the family of Mabel First Lutheran Church, will constantly strive to be a place for all to come together to worship and learn in peace and harmony in a spirit of forgiveness to further the Kingdom of God.

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK . . .

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven (Eccles. 3:1, NRSV). How true! Over the course of our lives, we discover there are indeed seasons that mirror a wide range of emotions and experiences. Some of the seasons we live through bring us relief such as might be found in a gentle rain or cooling summer breeze. We are thankful and happy for these calm seasons. Other seasons may challenge or even exhaust us, as one may strain against a bitter headwind when walking outside during the winter. These are the seasons that we brace ourselves and rely upon almighty God for the vigor to carry on. What season is it in your life?

There are times we experience joy and we are able to celebrate accomplishments; there are times which are also filled with sorrow and marked by struggles. At times it is right for us to smile and laugh and then at times it is more fitting to cry. What time is it in your life?

If we were to choose the season we prefer, this season would certainly be the one filled with joy, moved along in excitement, and marked by accomplishment. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have life be this way all the time! But, alas, there are season and times for every matter.... While we may struggle with the hardships of winter, we know that spring and summer are coming and will one day arrive in their splendor. Living as the people of God involves trusting in the bright future that God promises. Not only do we trust in it, however. We inevitably move towards it by faith.

Faith and devotion to God will not free us from experiencing some of the trials we face in this earthly life, but it will move us through them if we firmly put our trust in God. May God bless us as we observe Lent and Holy Week and come to find ourselves on the day of the Resurrection.

Pr. Elliott Malm



**MIDWEEK
LENTEN
INFORMATION**

Midweek Lenten Suppers and Services

- Midweek Lenten services continue. The congregation is using Holden Evening Prayer. This beautiful service, arranged by modern-day composer Marty Haugen, is a favorite in many congregations and the Worship & Music Committee has chosen to return to it once again for the Wednesdays during Lent (Feb. 21 to March 21).
- At these services, the offerings received will be given to the Mabel Area Food Shelf.
- On Ash Wednesday and each of the Wednesdays during Lent, worship services are preceded by a Lenten supper that will be served from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Please note: a Lenten Supper will not be served on March 7 as the Free Community Meal will be served that evening.

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Visiting Pastors to Preach on "I Am" Statements

- Area pastors will visit our congregation for midweek Lenten services this year and share meditations on the **"I Am" statements of Jesus.**
- A round robin pulpit exchange will include pastors
Steven Meyer, Neal Solomonson, Anne Hokenstad,
Melinda Pupillo, and Elliott Malm.
- Meditation themes for March will be
"I Am the Resurrection and the Life" March 7 Pr. Elliott Malm
"I Am the Good Shepherd" March 14 Pr. Neal Solomonson
"I Am the Light of the World" March 21 Pr. Steven Meyer

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MFLC Confirmation Class Schedule for the 2018 Lenten Season:

- Confirmation students will not meet for classes during the Wednesdays in Lent (Feb. 14 to March 21). Instead, they are to help serve the Lenten suppers (when scheduled) from 5:00-6:30 p.m. and participate in the worship services, which follow at 7 p.m. In addition to take sermon notes at these services, the students may be called upon to assist with the worship service as acolytes or ushers. (See acolyte schedule on page 7.)

Pastor Malm will meet with fifth grade Sunday school children and their parents on the Sundays of March 4, 11, and 18, from 10:00-11:00 a.m., in preparation for First Communion. After completing instruction, our fifth-grade students will be invited to receive their first Communion in worship on Maundy Thursday (March 29) at 7 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday Worship—7:00 pm—March 29
here at Mabel First Lutheran Church**

We give thanks with those who will receive their First Communion:
*Lainey Hostings, Kailey Ingvalson, Ava Jacobsen, Tyler Larson and
Shane Treangen*

**Good Friday Worship—7:00 pm—March 30
at Mabel United Methodist Church**

Offerings on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday
will support the Mabel Area Food Shelf.



**FIRST
COMMUNION
CLASSES**

**HOLY WEEK
INFORMATON**

EDUCATION BUILDING STUDY COMMITTEE

Special Committee to Study MFLC Education Building

At the annual meeting on Jan. 28, 2018, the congregation voted to form a special committee to study the maintenance and use of the church's education building and present a report at the annual meeting of the congregation to be held in January 2019. As there was no action to form the committee at the annual meeting, the Congregation Council is seeking names of those who wish to serve on this committee. Nominations may be submitted to Pamela Johnson, president of the Congregation Council, any time until the next meeting of the council at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2018. (At that time, the council will vote to officially appoint the committee.)

Nominees for the special committee presently include the following: John Westby; Lori Schutte; Donald Garness; Myron Sylling; Steven Darrington; Orel Tollefson; Pamela Johnson.

40 DAYS OF GIVING

During Lent this year, the Sunday school is participating in 40 Days of Giving and directing their offerings to ELCA World Hunger. This ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which is active in more than 60 countries (including the U.S.), addresses the root causes of poverty and hunger by providing relief, development, education, advocacy, and lifestyle stewardship. For more information about 40 Days of Giving and to learn about the programs supported by the offerings given during Lent, visit ELCA.org/40days



YOUTH LOCK-IN

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to attend a lock-in at Mabel First Lutheran Church on March 9-10. Doors are open for entry/registration from 7:30-8 p.m. on Friday, March 9, and then will be locked until 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 10. This event will be led by an outreach team from Luther College Student Ministries. Lock-in will include worship, faith talks, games, snacks, breakfast and other activities. Items to bring include: sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, and Bible.

To attend, youth must have a completed health release form and signed parental/guardian consent form. Both forms, which will be collected on Friday registration, are available in the church office.

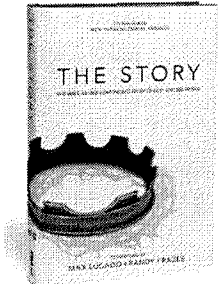
BREAKFAST WITH THE BISHOP

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod invites men to come for breakfast with the bishop at Cabela's in Owatonna, Minn., on Saturday, April 21, from 9-11 a.m. The guest speaker for the event this year is Al Batt, a newspaper columnist whose writing about wildlife and the outdoors is featured regularly in the Bluff Country Reader. Cost to attend is \$10 a person. Those who are interested in attending must register with Pastor Malm by April 10, as he will be organizing a trip for the men from our area.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Malm will lead a **Men's Bible Study** at Green Lea Manor on the second Saturday of every month from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Join him on Saturday, Mar. 10. Men of all ages are welcome to participate. Please talk to Pastor Malm if you have any questions.

THE STORY



Purpose statement for *The Story*:

"Through The Story, Mabel First Lutheran Church will bring the chronological story of the Bible to all people so they know God's word, feel God's love, and foster Christian community."

Join us for a journey through *The Story* – a book of selections from the Bible, arranged chronologically, that reads like a novel. During this unique 31-week experience, every member of the family reads their own version of *The Story*.

Classes and small groups will be available for
 Preschool (ages 2-5),
 Early Elementary (ages 4-8),
 Elementary (ages 9-12),
 Confirmation/Youth (ages 13-15),
 and Adults (age 16 and older).

The chapters and readings for March are as follows:

Week 23 — March 4

Biblical references 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; Mark 1:9-22
 Chapter: Jesus' Ministry Begins

Week 24 — March 11

Biblical references Psalm 100:1-5; Mark 4:35-41
 Chapter: No Ordinary Man

Week 25 — March 18

Biblical references 2 Peter 1:16-21; John 8:51-59
 Chapter: Jesus, The Son of God

Week 26 — March 25

Biblical references Psalm 118:19-29; Luke 19:36-44
 Chapter: Parade Detour

Come discover together with us how our story is found in God's story!

**FREE
COMMUNITY
MEAL**

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL First Wednesday of every month

Don't have time to cook with all the "running" for school or other activities?
 Tired of preparing meals and eating alone?
 Have difficulty stretching the food budget throughout the month?
 Don't know others in the community?
 Don't have time for a meal between school and church activities?

Mabel First Lutheran Church will be serving a meal in the lower level of the main church from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on the first Wednesday of each month. March 7 is the next Community Meal. The meal will have a simple soup and sandwich type menu and is open to all members of the community at no cost.

**All are invited and welcome!
 Invite your friends and neighbors!
 It's free and open to the public!**

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation March Schedule
Confirmation class is at 3:30pm

March	7	No Confirmation Class — help serve the Community Meal(5:00-7:00pm) and participate in the worship services (7pm)
	14	No Confirmation Class — help serve the Lenten supper (5:00-6:30pm) and participate in the worship services (7pm)
	21	No Confirmation Class — help serve the Lenten supper (5:00-6:30pm) and participate in the worship services (7pm)
	28	No Confirmation Class

PASTORAL ACTS
(February)

Baptisms: None
Funerals/deaths: None
Transfers in: None
Transfers out: None
Weddings: None

PRAYER CONCERNS



Bereavement:

family & friends of Avery and Aiden Arneson; family & friends of Lorren Tingesdal

Long-term care:

Rodney Benner, Violet Pederson, Mel Ruehmann, Mariys Schulte, Dorothy Treangen, Alice Wilbur

On-going health concerns:

Gary Adams, Gwen Allen, Alex Arneson, Jack Arneson, James Arneson, Gage Dahlberg, Danny Donlan, LaVonne Donlan; Kiley Eiken, James Gunderson, Shelly Henry, Betty Johnson, Rosemary Ketchum, Gary Kruse, Ryan Lee, Kay Marin, Joe Osbourn, Steve Remick, Irene Rice, Becki Russell, Dale Sanden, Tim Sollien
 area first responders and emergency responders

Service members:

Gregery Johnson, Luke Johnson, Adam L. Johnson, Benjamin Lee, Jeannie Vick

WELCA NEWS

March WELCA information:

Flowers/Coffee: Rachel

WELCA Do Day — date to be determined / as needed



MABEL FIRST LINE OF CARE
507-493-5293

Mabel First Line of Care—if you need a ride to an appointment, of any kind, or know of someone who needs a ride to appointments, Mabel First would like to assist those in need of this type of service. Simply call **507-493-5293** and leave a detailed message. Also, if you are available to give rides, you can talk to Pr. Malm, Lori Schutte, or call Mabel First Line of Care and leave your name and phone number. Thank you.

**SE MN
SYNOD
Prayer
Calendar
for MARCH**



**God's work.
Our hands.**

**HELPERS FOR
MARCH**

March 4, 2018: Third Sunday in Lent

East Chain Lutheran Church, Blue Earth
Bethany Lutheran Church, Frost
Urland Lutheran Church, Cannon Falls
Taasisi Kiomboi Lutheran Church, Tanzania
Ikungi Lutheran Church, Tanzania
Vida Nueva Lutheran Church, Colombia

March 11, 2018: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Hosanna Lutheran Church, Rochester
Trinity Fellowship ELCA, Rushford
Minneola Lutheran Church, Goodhue
Kisiriri Lutheran Church, Tanzania
Mang'onyi Lutheran Church, Tanzania
Principe de Paz Lutheran Church, Colombia

March 18, 2018: Fifth Sunday in Lent

South Blue Earth Lutheran Church, Bricelyn
Shiloh Lutheran Church, Elmore
Root Prairie Lutheran Church, Fountain
Kigaa Lutheran Church, Tanzania
Matongo Lutheran Church, Tanzania
Mission la Victoria, Lutheran Church, Colombia

March 25, 2018: Passion/Palm Sunday

St. John Lutheran Church, Kasson
St. John Lutheran Church, Waseca
Chatfield Lutheran Church, Chatfield
Kisimba Lutheran Church, Tanzania
Mkiwa Lutheran Church, Tanzania

ACOLYTES FOR MARCH

(confirmation students)

March 4	Rien Crawford	
March 7	Veda Gerleman	(Mid-week Lenten worship)
March 11	Katelyn Kleiboer	
March 14	Molly Lee	(Mid-week Lenten worship)
March 18	Kennedy Sorum	
March 21	Reid Crawford	(Mid-week Lenten worship)
March 25	Rien Crawford	
March 29	Veda Gerleman	(Maundy Thursday worship)

COUNTERS SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

March 4	Pam Johnson
March 11	Sherry Johnson
March 18	Joe Larson
March 25	Tyler Mikesh

USHERING TEAM FOR MARCH

Gerald Geving: Chairperson
Pam Johnson
Sherry Johnson
Mike Kleiboer